# The Delta Regional Authority invites you to join us for a

# **Regional Development Plan III Listening Session**

# A Public Stakeholder Engagement Series

June 11 | Carterville, Illinois | 9:00 – 11:00 am

John A. Logan College | 700 Logan College Drive Workforce Development Building | Workforce Rooms 127/128

June 11 | Paducah, Kentucky | 2:00 - 4:00 pm

West Kentucky Community & Technical College | 5100 Alben Barkley Drive Emerging Technology Center | Room 109

June 12 | Poplar Bluff, Missouri | 9:00 - 11:00 am

Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission | 3019 Fair Street

June 19 | Selma, Alabama | 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Carl C. Morgan Convention Center | 211 Washington Street

June 30 | Pine Bluff, Arkansas | 9:00 – 11:00 am

Southeast Arkansas Economic Development District | 721 South Walnut Street

July 1 | Clarksdale, Mississippi | 9:00 – 11:00 am

Delta Regional Authority Headquarters | 236 Sharkey Avenue, Suite 400

July 2 | Monroe, Louisiana | 9:00 - 11:00 am

Monroe Civic Center Conference Hall | 401 Lea Joyner Memorial Expressway

July 13 | Reserve, Louisiana | 9:00 - 11:00 am

South Central Louisiana Technical College - Reserve Campus | 181 Regala Park Road Media Center Room A100

July 13 | Collins, Mississippi | 3:00 - 5:00 pm

Collins Railroad Depot | 102 S Ash Avenue

July 20 | Jackson, Tennessee | 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Southwest Tennessee Development District | 102 E College Street

#### **OVERVIEW**

The Delta Regional Authority (DRA) invites you to attend a public forum designed to help the DRA gather stakeholder input and ensure local voices are heard as the DRA updates its regional strategic plan for the next five years. The DRA has engaged Ted Abernathy, Managing Partner at Economic Leadership LLP, as well as TIP Strategies, to assist with the preparation of an updated Delta Regional Development Plan III (RDP III) for the Delta region, which includes 252 counties and parishes within portions of eight states.

The RDP III will guide the region's economic growth over the next five years. It will build upon the previous strategic plan (RDP II) which has informed the DRA's priorities since 2008. The RDP II resulted in the creation of the DRA's guiding principles which will remain in place as the foundational framework for RDP III:

- Goal 1 Advance the productivity and economic competitiveness of the Delta workforce
- Goal 2 Strengthen the Delta's physical and digital connections to the global economy
- Goal 3 Facilitate capacity building within Delta communities

As part of the planning process, the DRA is seeking the input of key stakeholders that play important roles in the economic health of the region. As a community leader or stakeholder in the Delta region, your perspectives on effective approaches for economic development are important to the DRA.

## **EVENT FORMAT**

The listening session events throughout the region are structured conversations to give participants the opportunity to provide input to the DRA. No prior preparation on behalf of participants is necessary. The information gathered is used for background and idea generation purposes only. Your openness and candor are crucial.

Ten events are offered in different parts of the region in order to extend an opportunity to participate to all of the region's stakeholders. The format of each event will be the same. The event will begin with an overview of the DRA and its priorities as well as the goals and objectives of the RDP III. The team leading the session will then ask some specific questions about the economic development challenges and opportunities facing the region as a whole. From your responses, more focused ideas and questions will be identified and discussed. The sessions will be two hours long. The event is free, and refreshments will be provided.

## **RSVP**

To RSVP please go to <u>www.dra.gov/rdp3</u>. Please be sure to register in advance for these sessions. With questions, please contact Mirielle Burgoyne at <u>mburgoyne@dra.gov</u> or 202-434-4847.